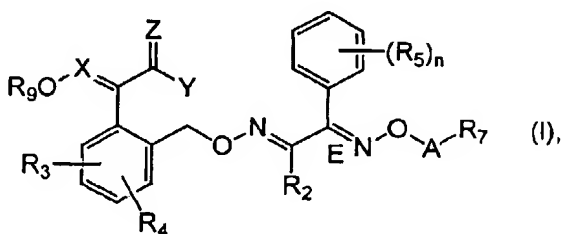


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (currently amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of the formula



and, where appropriate, their tautomers, in each case in the free form or salt form, in which

either [

] X is CH or N, Y is OR, and Z is O, or [

] X is N, Y is NHR₈ and Z is O, S or S(=O);

R₁ is C₁-C₄alkyl;

R₂ is H, C₁-C₄alkyl, halogeno-C₁-C₄alkyl, C₃-C₆cycloalkyl or C₁-C₄alkoxymethyl;

R₃ and R₄ independently of one another are H, C₁-C₄alkyl, C₁-C₄alkoxy, OH, CN, NO₂, a (C₁-C₄alkyl)₃-Si group, where the alkyl groups can be identical or different, halogen, (C₁-C₄alkyl)S(=O)_m, (halogeno-C₁-C₄alkyl)S(=O)_m, halogeno-C₁-C₄alkyl or halogeno-C₁-C₄alkoxy;

R₅ is C₁-C₆alkyl, halogeno-C₁-C₆alkyl, C₁-C₆alkoxy, halogeno-C₁-C₆alkoxy, C₁-C₆alkylthio, halogen-C₁-C₆alkylthio, C₁-C₆alkylsulfinyl, halogeno-C₁-C₆alkylsulfinyl, C₁-C₆alkylsulfonyl, halogeno-C₁-C₆alkylsulfonyl, C₁-C₆alkoxy-C₁-C₆alkyl, halogeno-C₁-C₆alkoxy-C₁-C₆alkyl, C₁-C₆alkylthio-C₁-C₆alkyl, halogeno-C₁-C₆alkylthio-C₁-C₆alkyl, C₁-C₆alkylsulfinyl-C₁-C₆alkyl, halogeno-C₁-C₆alkylsulfinyl-C₁-C₆alkyl, C₁-C₆alkylsulfonyl-C₁-C₆alkyl, halogeno-C₁-C₆alkylsulfonyl-C₁-C₆alkyl, C₁-C₆alkylcarbonyl, halogeno-C₁-C₆alkylcarbonyl, C₁-C₆alkoxycarbonyl, halogeno-C₁-C₆alkoxycarbonyl, C₁-C₆alkylaminocarbonyl, C₁-C₄alkoxyiminomethyl; di(C₁-C₆alkyl)-aminocarbonyl, where the alkyl groups can be identical or different; C₁-C₆alkylaminothiocarbonyl; di(C₁-C₆alkyl)aminothiocarbonyl, where the alkyl groups

can be identical or different; C₁-C₆-alkylamino, di(C₁-C₆alkyl)-amino, where the alkyl groups can be identical or different; halogen, NO₂, CN, SF₅, thioamido, thiocyanatomethyl; an unsubstituted or mono- to tetrasubstituted C₁-C₄alkylenedioxy group, where the substituents are selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₄alkyl and halogen; or QR₆, where, if n is greater than 1, the radicals R₅ can be identical or different;

- R₆ is C₂-C₆alkenyl or C₂-C₆ alkynyl, which are unsubstituted or substituted by 1 to 3 halogen atoms; (C₁-C₄alkyl)₃Si, where the alkyl groups can be identical or different; CN or an unsubstituted or mono- to pentasubstituted C₃-C₆cyclo-alkyl, aryl or heterocyclyl group, where the substituents are selected from the group consisting of halogen, C₁-C₆alkyl, halogeno- C₁-C₆alkyl, C₁-C₆alkoxy, halogeno-C₁-C₆alkoxy, phenoxy, naphthoxy and CN;
- A ~~either~~ is a direct bond, C₁-C₁₀alkylene, -C(=O)-, -C(=S)- or halogeno-C₁-C₁₀alkylene and R₇ is a radical R₁₀, [] or A is C₁-C₁₀alkylene, -C(=O)-, -C(=S)- or halogeno- C₁-C₁₀alkylene and R₇ is OR₁₀, N(R₁₀)₂, where the radicals R₁₀ can be identical or different, or -S(=O)_qR₁₀;
- R₈ is H or C₁-C₄alkyl;
- R₉ is methyl, fluoromethyl or difluoromethyl;
- R₁₀ is H; an unsubstituted or substituted C₁-C₆alkyl, C₂-C₆alkenyl or C₂-C₆alkynyl group, where the substituents are selected from the group consisting of halogen; (C₁-C₄alkyl)₃Si, where the alkyl groups can be identical or different; C₃-C₆cyclo-alkyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen; C₁-C₆alkoxycarbonyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen; unsubstituted or substituted aryl, where the substituents are selected from the group consisting of halogen, halogeno-C₁-C₄alkyl and CN; a (C₁-C₆alkyl)₃Si group, where the alkyl groups can be identical or different; C₃-C₆cycloalkyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen; C₁-C₆alkoxycarbonyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen; or an unsubstituted or substituted aryl or heterocyclyl group, where the substituents are selected from the group consisting of halogen and halogeno-C₁-C₄alkyl;

Q is a direct bond, C₁-C₈alkylene, C₂-C₆alkenylene, C₂-C₆alkynylene, O, O(C₁-C₆alkylene), (C₁-C₆alkylene)O, S(=O)_p, S(=O)_p(C₁-C₆alkylene) or (C₁-C₆alkylene)S(=O)_p;

m is 0, 1 or 2;

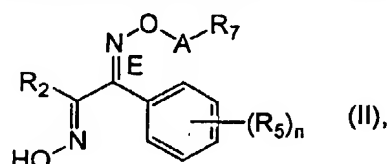
n is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5;

p is 0, 1 or 2; and

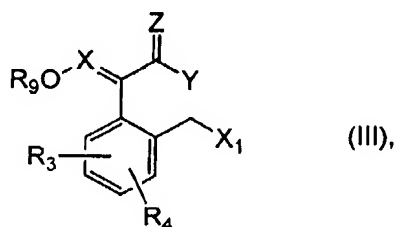
q is 0, 1 or 2,

and the C=N double bond marked with E has the E configuration, which comprises

a1) reacting ~~either~~ a compound of the formula



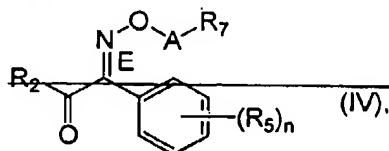
in which A, R₂, R₅, R₇ and n are as defined for formula (I) and the C=N double bond marked with E has the E configuration, or a ~~possible~~ tautomer thereof, in each case in the free form or in salt form, with a compound of the formula



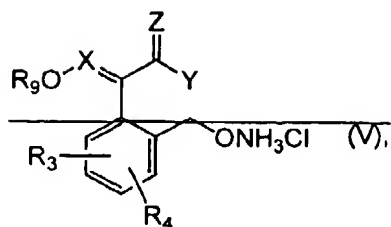
in which X, Y, Z, R₃, R₄ and R₉ are as defined for formula (I) and X₁ is a leaving group, or a tautomer thereof, in each case in the free form or in salt form, ~~or~~

wherein the compound of formula (II) is obtained by

~~a2) reacting a compound of the formula~~

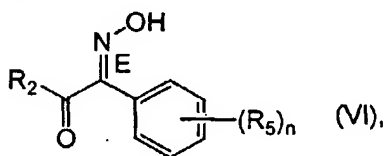


~~in which A, R₂, R₅, R₇ and n are as defined for formula (I) and the C=N double bond marked with E has the E configuration, or a possible tautomer thereof, in each case in the free form or in the salt form, with a compound of the formula~~



~~in which X, Y, Z, R₃, R₄ and R₉ are as defined for formula (I), or, if appropriate, a tautomer thereof, in each case in the free form or in salt form, or]~~

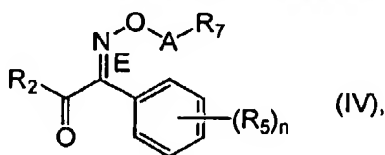
b1) reacting a compound of the formula



in which R₂, R₅ and n are as defined for formula (I) and the C=N double bond marked with E has the E configuration, or a ~~[possible]~~ tautomer thereof, in each case in the free form or in salt form, with a compound of the formula



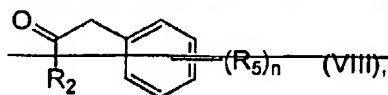
in which A and R₇ are as defined for formula (I) and X₂ is a leaving group, ~~[and either further reacting the]~~ to form a compound ~~[thus obtainable,]~~ of the formula (IV) ~~[, for example according to method a2), or]~~



in which A, R₂, R₅, R₇ and n are as defined for formula (I) and the C=N double bond marked with E has the E configuration, or a tautomer thereof, and

b2) further reacting [it] the compound of the formula (IV) with hydroxylamine or a salt thereof [and further reacting] to form the compound [thus obtainable,] of the formula (II), ~~[for example according to method a1), or]~~

~~[c) reacting a compound of the formula~~



~~in which R₂, R₅ and n are as defined for formula (I),~~

~~or a possible tautomer thereof, in each case in the free form or in salt form, with a C₁-C₆ alkyl nitrite and further reacting the compound thus obtainable, of the formula (VI), for example according to method b)).~~

Claims 2-22 (canceled)

²
Claim ~~23~~ (currently amended) A process according to claim [~~22~~] ¹, wherein a compound of the formula (VII) in which X₂ is halogen is used.

³
Claim ~~24~~ (currently amended) A process according to claim [~~22~~] ¹, wherein a compound of the formula (VII) in which X₂ is chlorine is used.

⁴
Claim ~~25~~ (currently amended) A process according to claim [~~22~~] ¹, wherein the reaction of the compound of the formula (VI) with the compound of the formula (VII) is carried out in the presence of a base.

⁵ ⁴
Claim ~~26~~ (original) A process according to claim ~~25~~, wherein the reaction is carried out in the presence of a base selected from the group consisting of alkali metal and alkaline earth metal hydroxides, hydrides, amides, alkanolates, acetates, carbonates, dialkylamides and alkylsilylamides.

⁶ ⁵
Claim ~~27~~ (original) A process according to claim ~~26~~, wherein the base is potassium carbonate.

⁷
Claim ~~28~~ (currently amended) A process according to claim [~~22~~] ¹, wherein the reaction of the compound of the formula (VI) with the compound of the formula (VII) is carried out in the presence of a solvent or diluent or of a mixture thereof.

⁸ ⁷
Claim ~~29~~ (original) A process according to claim ~~28~~, wherein the solvent is selected from the group consisting of acetonitrile and propionitrile.

¹ ⁷
Claim ~~30~~ (currently amended) A process according to claim [~~29~~] ~~28~~, wherein the reaction is carried out in acetonitrile.

⁽²⁾
Claim ~~31~~ (currently amended) A process according to claim [22] 1, wherein the reaction of the compound of the formula (VI) with the compound of the formula (VII) is carried out in a temperature range from about 10° to about 80°.

⁽¹⁾
Claim ~~32~~ (currently amended) A process according to claim [22] 1, wherein the duration of the reaction of the compound of the formula (VI) with the compound of the formula (VII) is between about 0.5 and about 2 hours.

Claims 33-71 (canceled)